United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council asks Secretary-General to send Special Envoy to Abkhazia, Georgia, to work for implementation of 14 May cease-fire agreement, and to prepare for dispatch of 50 military observers to area.

+ Security Council expresses concern about delays in implementing Mozambique Peace Agreement; invites Mozambican Government and RENAMO to agree to revised timetable for implementation; ONUMOZ to chair Joint Commission on new national army.

+ Security Council recommends that General Assembly admit Principality of Andorra as Member of United Nations; admission will bring total membership to 184.

+ UNHCR, warning of disaster in Sarajevo, condemns use of humanitarian aid as weapon of war; WHO appeals to Security Council to guarantee safe delivery of vital supplies to besieged Bosnian cities.

+ Talks to end Liberian civil war to be held in Geneva from 10 to 17 July; will aim for cease-fire, disarmament and democratic elections in accordance with ECOWAS Peace Plan and 1992 Yamoussoukro IV Accord.

+ Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks to convene at Headquarters from 12 to 30 July; will promote implementation of 1982 Law of Sea Convention.

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The Security Council today asked the Secretary-General to send his Special Envoy to Abkhazia, Georgia, to assist in implementing the 14 May cease-fire, and to begin preparations for the dispatch of 50 military observers to the Republic once the cease-fire is implemented. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 849 (1993), in which it expressed concern about the intensification of fighting around Sukhumi, the Abkhaz capital, and stressed the importance of a peace process involving the United Nations.

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The Council asked the Secretary-General to notify it when the cease-fire was implemented, and when conditions permitted the deployment of the observers, and to make recommendations at that stage for their mandate. The Council said it was willing to act quickly upon such notification.

The Council welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to launch a peace process involving the parties to the conflict and with the participation of the Russian Federation as a facilitator. It also supported his cooperation with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in efforts to bring peace to the region. The Council called on the Georgian Government to begin discussions with the United Nations on a status-of-forces agreement to facilitate early deployment of observers.

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The Security Council today expressed concern about delays in the implementation of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique, in particular with respect to the demobilization of forces, the formation of new unified armed forces and arrangements for elections. It underlined that elections should be held by October 1994. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 850 (1993), by which it approved the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ).

The Council welcomed the agreement between the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) to meet on 17 July to address major issues relating to the implementation of the Peace Agreement. It invited the parties to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative in resolving those difficulties, and to agree to the revised timetable for implementation, on the basis of the Secretary-General's report.

The Council urged the Government and RENAMO to begin to demobilize their forces without waiting for all designated assembly areas to become operational, and approved the Secretary-General's recommendation that ONUMOZ chair the Joint Commission for the Formation of the Mozambican Defence Force (CCFADM), on the understanding that the United Nations would not be obliged to train or establish the new armed forces. The Council encouraged RENAMO to participate fully in the Commission's work.

The Council stressed the importance of the early establishment of the Commission of State Administration, and the application throughout the country of the provisions of the Peace Agreement concerning public administration. The Council also invited the Secretary-General to keep it informed of relevant developments, and to report by 18 August on the outcome of the forthcoming discussions.

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The Security Council yesterday recommended to the General Assembly that the Principality of Andorra be admitted to membership in the United Nations. It took that action by adopting, without a vote, resolution 848 (1993). The

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Council decided to waive a time-limit called for in its provisional rules of procedure in order to present its recommendation to the resumed forty-seventh session of the Assembly.

After adopting the resolution, the Council noted in a Presidential statement that Andorra was solemly committed to upholding the principles of the United Nations Charter and to fulfilling all of the obligations contained therein. Andorra's admission will bring the total membership of the Organization to 184.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today condemned the use of humanitarian aid as a weapon of war, warning that the besieged city of Sarajevo was on the brink of disaster. Sadako Ogata said the city's population faced death not only by bombs and bullets, but by thirst, disease and starvation. UNHCR convoys had been hijacked by Bosnian-Serb militiamen ringing Sarajevo, while other cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina could not be reached because of fighting, she said. Meanwhile, international support for UNHCR operations in the region had declined, and relief could be only provided for three or four weeks with available funds.

Yesterday, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) sent an urgent message to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali appealing to the Security Council to guarantee the safe delivery of vital supplies to besieged Bosnian cities. Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima said that what was left of the health infrastructure in Sarajevo was about to collapse, warning of a catastrophe "the likes of which Europe and the world have not witnessed since the dark days of the Second World War."

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Negotiations to end the civil war in Liberia will be held in Geneva from 10 to 17 July. The aim will be to create an atmosphere of trust for implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Peace Plan and the 1992 Yamoussoukro IV Accord, which called for a cease-fire, disarmament and democratic elections.

The negotiations will be co-chaired by Trevor Gordon-Somers, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Liberia; Canaan Banana, Eminent Person of the Organization of African Unity (OAU); and Abass Bundu, Executive Secretary of ECOWAS. Taking part will be representatives of the Interim Government of National Unity of Liberia; the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL); the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL); and the United Liberation Movement for Democracy of Liberia (ULIMO). ECOWAS Foreign Ministers may join the peace process at the end of the week.

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The United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks will convene at Headquarters from 12 to 30 July to

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promote implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Conference will focus on provisions dealing with the conservation and sustainable use of living resources in the high seas.

According to last year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the Conference's work should be consistent with the Convention, in particular with the rights and obligations of coastal States and States fishing on the high seas. Under the Convention, States should fully implement provisions on the proper management of straddling fish stocks, and regarding highly migratory fish stocks. In addition, living marine resources should be soundly managed to ensure maximum sustainable yield, taking into account the special needs of developing States.

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